

Worksheet for

"Politics and the English Language"

Name(s):

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING:

1) What is replacing individually chosen words as the basic unit of modern English according to Orwell?

2) Give two reasons why people use large words and foreign phrases in their writing and daily speech.

3) Why would many political resist an effort to clearly define what is meant by the word "democracy?"

4) What can "ready-made phrases" do for/to the person who habitually uses them, according to Orwell?

5) To what does Orwell compare the tired political hacks who continually repeat the acceptable phrases?

6) What is the purpose of euphemisms such as "pacification" according to Orwell? Give at least two examples current euphemistic language.

ORWELL'S SIX RULES FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

(v)

(vi)

QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS:

1) The opening paragraph of President Coolidge's address contains 197 words. How long is your version?

2) How can you account for this gap? Were there large areas of fact missing from your version? Why do you think Coolidge would use so many words to say essentially simple things? What about politicians and public figures in general? (Use the space below to record ideas with your partner(s), then write your answer as a short essay on a separate sheet of paper)